

IC-75-1410
27 March 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Product Review Division

SUBJECT : NSC Visit--Dr. David Elliott

1. On 14 March I met with Dr. David Elliott, NSC, who is responsible for scientific affairs. We covered three general areas: first, current scientific intelligence; second, anticipated NSC studies requiring scientific input; and third, the presidential mechanism for science advising.

2. Elliott finds the technical articles in the NID very useful; technical subjects are likely to be placed in broad perspective. While he receives other community science publications, generally articles in these publications, e.g. the Surveyor, tend to be too narrowly focused. In most instances Elliott is not familiar with the background analysis on a given subject and would not be insulted if articles repeated information already known to other analysts. Because of limited time, Elliott only skims the longer technical studies. Personal inquiries are made when immediate intelligence information is needed; I volunteered to assist him in identifying appropriate analytical efforts in the Community.

3. Elliott stated little long-range planning is done at the NSC. Most intelligence inquiries are responsive to specific questions. A case in point is the current Under Secretaries inquiry on technology transfer to the Soviet Union. One month ago Elliott assured me no such study was likely. Elliott is spending a great deal of time on the proposed nuclear exporters conference and the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review. In this context, a memorandum will be sent to D/DCI/NIO asking that a "proliferation watch" be established. Chemical warfare is another area of current interest to Elliott. Finally, a Presidential request is anticipated to

examine how ERTS could be augmented with classified photographic intelligence for agricultural crop forecasting. The request is bogged down because OMB and NASA want to approach the study differently.

4. Elliott assured me that Presidential science advising, in some form, will return to the White House very soon. The President has approved this step in principal; the exact structure and framework is not firm. My reading is that the structure already has been decided (a President's Science Advisor will be named and the NSC will serve as his staff) but an individual has not been selected. As I reported previously, the Hill has proposed a Council on Science and Technology.

5. In this context, we discussed the pros and cons of a National Intelligence Officer for Science and Technology. Elliott feels success would depend on the individual selected rather than the bureaucratic creation of such an identity. Elliott argued if the NIO/S&T was responsible for proliferation, then perhaps such an identity might be warranted. Elliott's reservation is that a NIO/S&T would take S&T out of the main stream and I agree. However, the present NIO structure tends to ignore technical problems. The regional NIO's are primarily interested in political concerns-- NIO/USSR, is a case in point. A NIO/S&T would likely handle the Under Secretaries' inquiry on technology transfer to the USSR. while having this responsibility, does not appear to find the task particularly exciting.

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